GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2044
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Child/Bonded Labour
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether child and bonded labour is still prevalent in the country despite stringent laws in force in this regard and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reasons therefor;
(b)the details of the mechanism to identify bonded labourers or child labour in the Country and the details of the extant policy and schemes in place to ensure that the bonded labour menace is curbed;
(c)the total number of child and bonded labourers rescued and rehabilitated during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
(d)whether the Government proposes to amend the existing child labourers and bonded labourers laws and if so, the details thereof and the details of the objections raised from various organisations/experts on the proposed amendments including the response of the Government thereto; and
(e)the other measures taken by the Government for the complete eradication of child and bonded labour in the Country in a time-bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. As per Census 2011, there are 43.53 lakh main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country. The State-wise details of the main workers is given at Annexure-I.
contd..2/-

The cause of the bonded labour problem lies in the social customs and economic compulsions. The State/UT wise number of bonded labourers identified under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme is at Annexure-II.

(b): Child labour survey for identification of children/ adolescents employed in hazardous occupations/processes is the immediate starting point for launching and implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme. The NCLP Societies are required to conduct two surveys in a Plan period for which an amount of Rs. 4.00 Lakh per survey per district is provided by Government of India. The project societies headed by District Magistrate/Collector, are required to conduct survey to identify children below 14 years employed in any occupation or process and adolescents (14-18 years) employed in hazardous occupations and processes.
The bonded labour system has been abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Government is implementing the Central Sector Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers. Under the Scheme an amount of assistance Rs.4.50 lakh per district is released for survey of bonded labourers. Assistance of Rs.1 lakh per adult male, Rs. 2 lakh for child labour & women and Rs. 3 lakh to trans-genders, or woman or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation are released. The Scheme also provides for creation of District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.

(c): As per the information received from District Project Societies the number of child labourers rescued/withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under National Child Labour Project Scheme during the last three years, State-wise is given at Annexure-III. The State-wise number of bonded labour released and rehabilitated during the last three years and current year is at Annexure-IV.
(d): Government has enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force w.e.f. 1.9.2016. The Amendment Act completely prohibits the employment of children below 14 years. The amendment also prohibits the employment of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The amendment also provides stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and making the offence cognizable. The views of various organizations/experts/different stakeholders were considered and given due weightage while amending the Act.
Contd..3/-

(e): Government is following a multi-pronged strategy for elimination of child labour. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation and universal elementary education along with convergence with other schemes for socio economic development. Besides amendment in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the Government is implementing the National Child

Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour since 1988. For rehabilitation of bonded labourers Government has also revamped the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer with effect from 17th May, 2016.

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